

GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Business Meeting Minutes  
High School Library  
October 11, 2011 – 7:00 PM

Approved 10.25.11

Present: Jim Frey, Berta Erickson, Leslie Lathrop, Jon Sjoberg, Alison Manugian, Erik Dichter, John Giger, Joe Mastrocola, Gerrit Bolt

**I. Call to Order**

- Jim called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

- MS students Liana Squeglia and Jordan Sheffield led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Announcements**

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- None.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

- Berta moved to approve the minutes of the September 27 meeting, and Jon seconded. Motion passed 7-0.
- Jon moved to approve the minutes of the August 26 Special meeting, and Alison seconded. Motion passed 5-0 (John and Erik abstained).

**V. Vote to Accept Warrant Articles**

- Alison moved to accept one payroll warrant for \$785,385.13 and seven vendor warrants totaling \$559,359.92, and Jon seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

**VI. Questions and Comments from the Public**

- None

**VII. Presentations**

A. Principals' MCAS Presentation

- Joe: All GD scores from Spring 2011 are above the state average.
- Joe: District has made several improvements since last year: AEL's for reading and writing with assessments; Reading Report with MCAS correlation; new guidelines for Child Study Teams.
- Joe: Mass DESE has requested a waiver from the 2014 NCLB requirement (100% Advanced/Proficient). GD is at 95% and will strive for 100% regardless of waiver.
- Pete Myerson defined AYP.
- Mike Mastrullo: HS graduation requires passing three MCAS (math ELA, science).
- Mike: 100% of HS students passed this year.
- Mike: High MCAS scores are eligible for scholarships.
- Steve Silverman gave an overview of ELA: vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing.
- Pete: AYP is up at the MS and HS, but down at SU, FloRo and MS SpEd.
- Pete: Elementary School open response is a weakness.
- Russ Hoyt talked about next steps. Writing AEL: introduce and/or stress writing in all areas of curriculum, including music.
- Joe (summary): District has already started to address writing weakness, especially non-fiction.

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- District must focus on individual students. There were 20-25 FloRo students who misses proficient by 1-3 points.
- The only (small) weakness in math section is short answer....writing!
- Lower class size should have positive impact on scores.
- Effort is ongoing.
- Berta asked whether emphasis on writing will take away from other subjects. Russ and Joe say “no”.
- Steve: Colleges offer remedial writing for incoming students because many HS graduates are unprepared.
- Leslie: Lower class sizes should help with writing.
- Jim: Our “bad” scores are still good.
- Jim asked whether a history MCAS is planned for HS. Mike replied that is was shelved by state due to lack of funding.
- John: Parents can help by encouraging good writing at home.
- Berta asked whether Civics will return to curriculum. Mike replied that there are aspects of Civics in Social Studies classes.

**VIII. Reports**

A. Subcommittees

- P&N meets next Tuesday to discuss Superintendent evaluation. All are invited.
- Policy met last week and wrestled with the use of regulations and the proper place to keep them.
- B&F met last week and discussed new employees and FY2013.

B. Superintendent

- Waters Fund granted 30 iPads to the HS for 9<sup>th</sup> grade use. Administration will assess whether this technology works for us.
- There will be three Parent Academy presentations in the coming months. Check district website for details.
- Enrollment figures: Overall number is down from summer. HS is up; MS and ES are down; Pre-K is steady. Average elementary class size is less than 20.
- Jon asked whether these numbers are good enough to maintain. Joe replied that HS and ES are good, and he’s like to focus on MS next.
- Joe gave an update on the DESE Coordinated Program Review: We have received final report on SpEd and Civil Rights. All ratings are “Implemented” or “Partially Implemented”, and there will be no budget impositions as a result. We are awaiting final report on ELL, which may have budget impositions.

C. Director of Budget and Finance

- None.

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D. Advisory Committees

- Tarbell: Town Meeting vote to approve \$30K for a septic system.
- Prescott: 3-4 architects to be interviewed next week
- John said the District's Tarbell lease should terminate before substantial work has begun (e.g. septic installation).

E. Chair

- There are several items to discuss at the next SC meeting in preparation for the MASC conference: Teacher evaluations; Vocational programs; Charter School funding; Freezing NCLB.

**IX. Discussions**

- First reading of "Agenda Format" policy BEDB-E-S: "Current" replaces "2010-2011".
- John moved to waive the wait time before the second reading, and Berta seconded. Motion passed 7-0.
- Second reading: Leslie moved to accept the policy change, and Berta seconded. Motion passes 7-0.

**X. New Business**

- Berta asked if Race to the Top is discontinued, will district be left with any unfunded mandates. Joe replied that there are always unfunded mandates, but none specifically due to RTTT.
- John requested electronic copy of MCAS presentation.
- Gerrit would love to see a Civics class at the HS. Jim: Boy Scouts have merit badges which require civics training.
- Leslie asked if there was a Gay/Straight Alliance at the HS. Joe replied "yes".

**XI. Adjournment**

- John moved to adjourn at 8:45pm, and Leslie seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Erik Dichter